

The Vapids are definitely one of the most prolific and fastest growing punk rock trios to emerge in a long time from not only Ontario, but all of Canada. Their showmanship, attitude and hard work have now brought them to a level of pure, 100% "punk fucking rock". The song writing, the pulsating backbeat, the chainsaw guitar; they possess that level of intensity which is lacking in today's punk rock world. And to top it off, a live show that will shake the bottles off the table and shake your ass outta your seat. With almost 200 shows, four U.S. tours, three full length albums, plus 7" comps and cassettes, it's about time they got an interview in Maximumrocknroll. Interview by Ginseng Tina.

MRR: First off, let's get the name over with. Are any of you related in any way to Danny Vapid? (S. Weasel, Riverdales, Queer's, Methadones)

Jimmy: Absolutely not.

Scotty: It's pure coincidence, but kinda cool, you know.

MRR: What does "Vapid" mean anyway?

Jimmy: Dull, slow, boring, dumb, sad, bland, sour.

Dully: Ya, that's what it means.

MRR: So who are you?

Dully: I'm Dully Vapid, some say I play the bass.

Scotty: I'm Scotty Vapid, and I'm an alcoholic.

Jimmy: I'm Jimmy Vapid, I try to sing and play guitar.

MRR: Hey, Dully is your new bass player right? What happened to J.T Vapid?

Scotty: He disappeared, abducted I think.

Jimmy: He must have fell out of the van somewhere between Detroit and Chicago one night. We didn't realize it until we got to Milwaukee, so we recruited Dully from the Navy.

Dully: Yeah, that's what happened.

MRR: So, tell us what records you have released.

Scotty: A couple of demos in '92-'93. Our first CD in '95 called "Five Minute Major" on Fish Tank Records which was released on Crack Records in April '96. A 7" in November '96 and the "Drink Beer" CD in March '97 both on Crack Records, and most recently, "Wanna Fuck Around" cassette and CD on A.M.P. Records in November, '97.

MRR: What's up with Crack Records? **Jimmy:** We met them after our first CD came out. The original version is the orange copy with the Canadian flag on the disc, limited to 550, they're all gone except for the copies I have at home. They re-released it and did our 7" and the Drink Beer disc. They're good guys, hard workers. They've been nice to us and haven't paid us fuck all in two years, but they're cool.

MRR: What about touring? Ya like to play? **Scotty:** Touring is always a treat. I look forward to getting out every time, meeting people, partying. Even playing locally is great, seeing our friends and shit.

MRR: Where have the Vapids toured?

Jimmy: All over the East Coast, Midwest, down South, Northern Canada. We've gone as far as Winnipeg in Canada, been over near North Dakota, too. Everywhere except the West Coast (excluding anywhere outside North America).

MRR: Ya wanna go out West?

Dully: Can't wait. There's a big scene down there that I hear is rockin'.

MRR: Who does your bookings on tour?

Jimmy: I do all the calling. It's incredible how many people you can meet trying to book a tour. Ya call one guy, and he gives you five more numbers, and on and on. We've been lucky on our tours, not too many cancellations. That's the worst thing that could happen on tour, you just end up sitting in the van all day, all night, all day until the next show. It sucks.

MRR: Got any tour stories to talk about?

Scotty: Everything stays on the road. We've made that pledge. Sorry, I don't wanna get anyone busted.

MRR: Is it hard to cross the border into the USA or vice versa?

Jimmy: We've been lucky every time. Just put on a smile and remove the leather. We always get worried and hide stuff everywhere and spend the whole trip to the border planning what we're gonna say. Just answer the questions they ask and never say you're a band on tour.

MRR: The Vapids are from Burlington, Ontario. What is the scene like in your area as a whole?

Jimmy: It's alright, there's lotsa shit happening up here, but like anywhere, a lot of the stuff is quite similar. There are bands we play with that I think are terrible, but some I fuckin' love.

MRR: What are some of your local faves up in Ontario?

the VAPIDS



Dully: Spoiled Rotten, the Dinks, Teenage Head, Razoreater.

Jimmy: Johnny Terrian and the Bad Lieutenants, Tarbelly, the Stiffs, Sick Boys are awesome.

Scotty: The Sinisters, Hoodrat, Forgotten Rebels.

MRR: What do you guys do when your not playing?

Dully: Work, sleep, eat, work, have sex.

Scotty: Work, sleep, drink, have sex, drink.

Jimmy: Watch pornography.

MRR: Lyrically speaking, what political mumbo jumbo or any semi-important issues do you cover in your songs?

Dully: Holy question, Batman.

Jimmy: Our stuff does kinda emphasize on simple things. I like to have fun, make the best out of the worst, ya know? I do wander sometimes into serious stages of writing, but Scotty usually smacks me around a little, wakes me up.

Scotty: We have a certain wave that we work on. We try not to fuck with it that much.

Dully: That's why all our songs sound the same.

MRR: What are the majority of songs about? **Jimmy:** It would be easy to say myself, but that would be kinda ignorant. We cover such

issues as girls, growing pains, girls, passing out, revolution, the summer.

Dully: Make-believe girls, of course.

MRR: Now for the big question, what do you think of major label "punk rock"? Does it affect you?

Jimmy: I think it's great, actually. It doesn't really do much for me. In the long run I think it's good 'cause it will make the indie and real stuff more approachable to a younger market. People who would usually pass it up might give it a second look; maybe 'cause of what they've seen on T.V.

MRR: If I had to tell the people what the Vapids sound like, who could I compare you to?

Dully: Catchier than the Queers, tighter than Screaming Weasel, better looking than the Ramones, but totally original.. (no disrespect intended, everyone's got the right to make a living.)

Scotty: Basic rock'n'roll, speed it up, scream it out, and get the fuck off the stage.

MRR: What are your major influences in regards to what you play?

Jimmy: Ramones, Groovie Ghoulies.

Dully: Ramones.

Scotty: Ramones.

MRR: What can people expect at a live show?

Scotty: Attitude, not a bad attitude, non stop action, spilled booze, and spit, lotsa spit.

Dully: We take our "live show" very seriously. We want the paying customer to remember us as the Vapids, not just "another band last night".

MRR: What plans exist right now for the band?

Jimmy: Right now we wanna do some singles and some comps. Please call me if you wanna get the band on your comp. We've stuck to full lengths for the last four years, we gotta get the name out there, keep moving forward and get a half decent record deal, which we're working on right now.

Dully: Yeah, what he said.

MRR: What kind of advertising do you use to sell your stuff and get the name out?

Jimmy: Well, Crack Records does the big ads. MRR, Punk Planet and all the big zines, they also take care of the newspaper ads, you know, those magazines that every city has. I myself like to do fanzine ads, interviews and through our mailing list. I mail about 100 letters every few months to people and stores all over the world. It pays off most of the time. Any fanzine that wants an interview, please write.

MRR: Where can all the kids get your records from?

Scotty: You can buy them from us. Write, and we can send you a catalogue and lotsa free stickers, posters and pins. All that stuff.

Jimmy: Stores can contact Rhetoric, Dr. Strange, Revolver, Blind Spot, Surefire, F.A.B. Canada and Cargo Canada. Crack Records: PO BOX 29048 Eaton Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3C 4L1. But, save your money and buy direct.

Contact The Vapids @ 2473 # 2 Side RD, RR# 2, Milton, Ontario, CANADA, L9T 2X6

The Vapids can help out with getting shows in Ontario, helpful border hints, recording contracts, clubs, promoters, etc. Call Jimmy! (905)631-7152 or Scotty (905)335-2410.